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Contra Aid Troubling To Exiles

By GEORGE VOLSKY

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MIAMI, March 10 — Many Nicaraguan exiles here are deeply troubled by President Reagan's proposal to send \$100 million in aid to the anti-Government rebels in Nicaragua.

In interviews in recent days, many said they believed that the \$70 million in military aid included in the total would just lead to further bloodshed without advancing the goal of changing the nature of the Managua Government.

At the same time, many prominent Nicaraguan exiles expressed distrust of the political leaders of the contras, as the guerrillas are generally known.

"Seventy or a hundred million to fight the military machine of the Sandinista regime is like a drop in the bucket," said Silvio Argüello, an exile civic leader. "It's useless without a firm prior commitment from the President and Congress that they will go all the way against Managua."

Backing Is Questioned

Dr. Argüello, a lawyer and international business consultant who was Vice President of Nicaragua from 1963 to 1967, said, "We respect those who fight against the Sandinistas."

But he said the rebels' leaders, "imposed and directed by the Central Intelligence Agency," had little or no backing among the 65,000 Nicaraguans in Miami, "among other reasons because they have created a huge, costly and useless bureaucratic apparatus."

Exile leaders here say there are some 145,000 Nicaraguans in the United States who left their homeland when the Sandinistas came to power in July 1979. Some were wealthy loyal supporters of former President Anastasio Somoza Debayle. But the majority are middle-class professionals and lower-middle-class employees and workers.

More than two dozen political groups are known to operate here. While all are strongly anti-Communist, they have little affection for the rebel leadership and most advance their own ideas of how to fight the Managua Government.

"Each group works for its own convenience and not for the defeat of the Sandinistas," said Edgar Solís, a veteran Nicaraguan newspaperman and columnist.

'Part of a Small Group'

"The guerrilla leadership does not tell anybody how they spend the money they get from the United States," said Jorge Savany, a leader of the Nicaraguan Liberal Party here. "Calero, Cruz and Robelo do not represent the majority of Nicaraguans. They are just a part of a small group, influential in Washington, which has access to the money given generously by the American people."

The three Nicaraguans, Adolfo Calero Portocarrero, Arturo José Cruz and Alfonso Robelo, were received twice in the White House by President Reagan last week.

Stories of high-spending rebel leaders, whether true or not, circulate among Nicaraguans here. According to Dr. Argüello, seven directors of the Nicaraguan Democratic Force, the major United States-backed guerrilla group, each received monthly tax-free salaries of \$7,000, plus expenses.

Mr. Robelo, who is the target of particularly strong criticism from some Nicaraguan exiles here, is said by them to be hopscotching around the globe in a private jet.

'Preach to the Converted'

According to Macario Estrada, a Nicaragua-born Miami lawyer, the rebel leaders are in part to blame for not getting their story across to the American people. "What they mostly do is to preach to the converted," he said.

Mr. Estrada also said that Nicaraguans here read and hear reports that large sums of money are being spent by rebel leaders on "luxury trips, receptions and fiestas."

Marta Sacasa, the press officer of the Nicaraguan Democratic Force here, recognized that the organization has had a public relations problem in Miami for some time.

"There is a certain malaise among Nicaraguans here, especially a lack of trust in Mr. Cruz and Mr. Robelo," Mrs. Sacasa said. "Nicaraguans have always been critical of their leaders. But our people here do not have a clear understanding of the general situation."

She said that the guerrilla leadership does not work hard enough to combat "alienation" of the Miami Nicaraguans or to deny "many wild rumors that circulate and are being broadcast over a local Spanish language radio station."

She said that no Nicaraguan exile leader owned a private jet, although she said that an idea of renting one had been considered and was rejected for "economic reasons."

"If they fly sometimes in private jets, it is because they have been invited by friends," she said.

Funds 'Not Extravagant'

She said she did not know what salaries the leaders were drawing but added that these funds "are not extravagant."

"We have been here for six years now," Mrs. Sacasa said. "Our people, frustrated and with immigration problems and some realizing that they might have to stay here forever, are not disposed to treat us as they did before."

The rebel leaders are also blamed for doing little for their compatriots in the United States, many of whom have no work permits and even face deportation to Nicaragua.

"These people are not in the least interested in the difficult situation of Nicaraguans here," said Roberto J. Argüello, a Miami banker and president of the Nicaraguan-American Bankers Association. "Under President Carter, we had an immigration status and work permits. Under President Reagan, many of us were deprived of these papers."